



The Supreme Court of Texas

CHIEF JUSTICE
NATHAN L. HECHT

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October 25, 2021

Mr. Charles L. "Chip" Babcock
Chair, Supreme Court Advisory Committee
Jackson Walker L.L.P.
cbabcock@jw.com

Re: Referral of Rules Issues

Dear Chip:

The Supreme Court requests the Advisory Committee to study and make recommendations on the following matters.

Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 76a. Since its adoption in 1990, the Court has received a number of complaints about Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 76a. Courts and practitioners alike complain that the Rule 76a procedures are time consuming and expensive, discourage or prevent compliance, and are significantly different from federal court practice. The Committee should draft any rule amendments that it deems advisable and, in making its recommendations, should take into account the June 2021 report of the Legislative Mandates Subcommittee.

Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 162. In the attached email, Judge Robert Schaffer proposes amendments to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 162. The Committee should review and make recommendations.

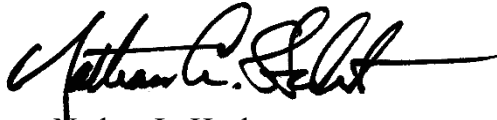
Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 506.1(b). Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 506.1(b) states in part: "A plaintiff must file a \$500 bond. A defendant must file a bond in an amount equal to *twice the amount of the judgment.*" (Emphasis added.) The Court asks the Committee whether the bond amount—double the judgment—is too high, especially as justice court jurisdiction has increased. The Court also asks the Committee to consider other changes that would clarify whether attorney fees are included in calculating the bond amount.

Texas Rule of Evidence 404(b). In the attached memorandum, the State Bar Administration of Rules of Evidence Committee proposes amendments to Texas Rule of Evidence 404(b). The Committee should review and make recommendations.

Texas Rule of Evidence 601(b). In the attached memorandum, the State Bar Administration of Rules of Evidence Committee proposes the repeal of Texas Rule of Evidence 601(b). The Committee should review and make recommendations.

As always, the Court is grateful for the Committee's counsel and your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan L. Hecht", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nathan L. Hecht
Chief Justice

Attachments